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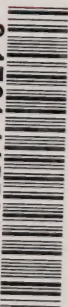
GASSINSKI

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International Model Forest Program

With the shared goal of preserving the world's forests for future generations, Canada and Russia have established a cooperative program to define and implement working examples of sustainable forest management. Supported by the Federal Forest Service of Russia and the Canadian Government's Green Plan International Initiatives, special forest areas in both countries have been designated to form part of a network of working models for sustainable forest management.

It is hoped that the Model Forest Program will foster change in the long-term management of forests so that they will be managed in a way that ensures future productivity, healthy regeneration and ecological diversity based on social, economic and environmental values.

Within the model forest network, the traditional concept of forest management is expanded. Wildlife and fish habitats, genetic diversity and cultural history are recognized as important elements in determining how the forest will be managed.

In addition, the management approach gives local communities an active role so that forests will benefit those who live in the immediate area. This broad management perspective ensures that use of the forest today does not compromise prospects for its use and enjoyment by future generations.



Gassinski Model Forest

The Gassinski Model Forest will be part of an international network of working model forests that includes ten model forests across Canada, two in Mexico, and potential sites which are being identified in other countries. Together, the thirteen projects cover the boreal forests of Russia and seven of the major ecological regions of North America, from tropical rain forests in the south to boreal forests in the north. This model forest network will demonstrate how diverse ecosystems and complex socio-economic issues can be managed to achieve sustainable forest management.

Knowledge gained from the Gassinski Model Forest will be shared with members of the model forest network, with those managing other forests in Russia, with local individuals and organizations and with the international community. This will be done through technology transfer and public awareness programs.

The Gassinski Model Forest covers 384 000 hectares of Russia's boreal forests in the Khabarovsk Krai. Located in the most populated



region of the Central Amur lowland, the model forest is within the boundaries of Nanaiski District and bordered by the Sikhote-Alin mountains and the Amur river. The landscape combines hilly and mountainous sections, interspersed with lowlands and flatlands.

The predominant species of the model forest include Yeddo spruce, Manchurian birch and Korean pine. Other important species include larch, linden, ash, elm, oak and poplar. Nut production is an important economic forestry activity and over 55 000 hectares are protected for this purpose. Other forest areas are protected to safeguard valuable salmon spawning grounds. Forests managed for timber production cover 208 000 hectares and support

balanced program of conservation and development, and one that benefits all local communities.

Through the international network, groups involved in the Gassinski Model Forest will directly exchange technical expertise and assistance with members of the McGregor Model Forest in Prince George, B.C., Canada. The McGregor Model Forest partners will provide assistance and training on all aspects of forest management. The links between model forests will foster a sharing of knowledge, skills and techniques among interested groups to benefit forest management around the world.





There are six villages within and beside the Gassinski Model Forest, with a total population of approximately 4 665. Indigenous people comprise approximately 40 percent of the population. The major occupations of the inhabitants are linked to the utilization of forest resources.

The Gassinski Model Forest is sponsored in Russia by the Forestry Administration, Khabarovsk Krai; the Federal Forest Service of Russia; and the Khabarovsk Krai Administration, Department of Natural Resources.

six forest harvesting and wood processing enterprises in the Nanaiskii District.

Other important economic activities in the model forest include agriculture, hunting and wildlife management, fishing and harvesting of non-wood forest products including honey, medicinal plants, fruits and berries, and natural resins and oils. With its highly diversified wildlife, including such species as the Siberian tiger, wild boar and moose, tourism and recreational opportunities can also be developed. The model forest will work to support





these economic activities while preserving the natural environment.

Activities will include research on forest ecology, aquatic ecosystems, wildlife and fish habitat, fire prevention and forest management.

Environmental, social, cultural and economic factors will be integrated to define new approaches to sustainable development in the area.

Partnership

The success of any model forest project depends on support from a variety of interested groups. For this project, a partnership has been formed which involves representatives from all levels of government, the Nanai indigenous people, industry, research and international organizations in the management of the model forest. It is hoped that this collaboration will result in a

The partner organizations in Russia involved in the model forest include:

- Federal Forest Service of Russia
- Department of Forests, Khabarovsk Krai
- Department of Natural Resources, Khabarovsk Krai Administration
- DALNIIKKh Far-Eastern Scientific Research Forestry Institute
- Far-Eastern State Forest Management Enterprise
- Department of Hunting Industry, Khabarovsk Krai
- Amur Pisciculture, Amur Basin Administration for the Protection and Reproduction of Fish Reserves
- Nanaiskii District Administration
- Nanaiskii Administrative Forestry Enterprise
- Khabarovsk Krai Technical University
- Gassinski Administrative Forest Logging Enterprise
- Association of Minority Nationalities of the North and Along the Amur, Nanaiskii District
- Union of National Communes, Nanaiskii District
- Troitskoe Cooperative Fur-Farming Producers Establishment
- Far-Eastern Forestry Complex
- Dal'lesprom Joint-Stock Company
- Vedi Far-Eastern Market Communications Company
- Krai Committee on the Ecology and Natural Resources
- Institute of Aquatic and Ecological Problems
- Sindinskii Administrative Forest Logging Enterprise

For further information please contact the Canadian Diplomatic Mission in your country or write to:

Head of the Forestry Administration
Khabarovsk Krai
Federal Forestry Service of Russia
71 Frunze
City of Khabarovsk
Russia 680620



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